



THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

The Church of the Pilgrimage,
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April 29, 2007

No. 16

Dear Friends,

The nation, indeed the world, has been in grief once again by the mass murder on the campus of Virginia Tech University. We are left stunned again by the depraved actions of one person who shot about fifty college kids killing thirty-two before turning the gun upon himself. It is unthinkable, really!

On Monday I just happened to read a small article which called attention to the five young Amish girls who were senselessly slain in Pennsylvania in October, 2006. I was astounded by what I read about the Amish community following the murder of those lambs of God. About half of the 75 mourners at the burial of gunman, Charles Carl Roberts IV, were Amish! I don't know why I didn't know that, but I don't think much was made of it by the news media.

When I was at Hiram college in northeast Ohio I often stopped at places where Amish people live. I met a wonderful Amish man named Jonas who helped build chicken barns for my farther-in-law in Parkman, Ohio. He was a peaceful man with ruddy complexion which accented his expressive eyes. He smiled a lot. He knew that wisdom is not humorless. He exuded kindness in his irenic manner and one could feel that he'd disciplined himself not to judge others who were not like him. Indeed, almost all the world was not like him! To be Amish is to be an anachronism. The Amish live by the values of a bygone time, rural, simple, forgiving and peace-loving.

The capacity of the Amish for forgiveness is astounding. They take the New Testament idea of forgiveness as seriously as any people on earth. In that regard they live by the peace of God they find in Jesus. The Amish adore and value their families, thus making the appearance of the Amish at the burial of the man who slaughtered some of their children beyond amazing.

We are prone, by and large, to think revenge when such atrocities occur. My first reaction to the Amish and Virginia Tech slayings was anger. I didn't want revenge, but I don't think I could be as generous in forgiveness as the Amish were amid their grief and loss. I stand in awe of the Amish, however, who act out, even amid horrid circumstances of loss, pain and grief, their belief that the peace and forgiveness of God is ultimately more powerful than violence. They actually live the belief that God's gift of shalom is a holy alternative to hatred, violence and the perverse abuse of power.

At the conclusion of last Sunday's service I asked deacon Sherm Anderson and Tom Healy to toll our tower bell 32 times in memorial of the college kids who were brutally slain at Virginia Tech. I actually thought 32 was the total number slain. There should have been one more ring of the bell for the pathetically deranged young man who sought random violence as an answer to his own pain. That one additional toll of the bell would have been the Amish way. I'm trying to trust the Shalom of God in the risen Christ, though I have far to go.

Love,

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Clerk – Lois Post; Moderator – Steven Triffletti; Acting Treasurer – Jonathan Porter; Collector – Debra Richters and Nate Davis;
Music Director-William B. Richter; Secretary-Shellie McCormack; Sexton-Tony Nightingale;
World Mission Emphasis-Heifer Project International; Church Building Telephone-508-747-1341

An Invitation

The Stewardship committee invites you to a Luncheon immediately after Church on Sunday, April 29th to celebrate the successful end of the Stewardship Campaign and to thank all those who pledged so generously.

The Luncheon will replace the coffee hour and is our gift to members and friends of the Church.

The Stewardship Committee

Neil Bottomley, Gay Flood, Susan Healy, Carol Johnson, Gail Mason, Susan Miller, Susan Quick

On Our Church Calendar

Sun, Apr. 29: Morning worship 10:00am, Rev. Gary L. Marks preaching; A Stewardship Committee Appreciation Luncheon will be held in Allerton Hall following the worship service; There will be no Coffee Hour this morning; The Theological Discussion Group will meet on May 6th, 11:30am –12:30pm in The Rev. John Robinson Center (see notes); Junior Choir will sing today; Cherub Choir Rehearsal, following worship.

Mon, Apr. 30: Monday Meals of Hospitality, 10:30am, Allerton Hall.

Tue, May 1: Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am; Rev. Moody will be in the church office from 10am-noon.

Wed, May 2: Rev. Marks will be in the office, 9:30am; Rev. Moody will be in the office from 10am-noon; Evening Prayer in the sanctuary, 7pm; Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm, sanctuary.

Thurs, May 3: Rev. Moody will be in the office from 10am-noon; Christian Education Committee will meet at 7pm in the JRC Conference Room; Nominating Committee will meet at 7pm.

Fri, May 4: Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am.

Sat, May 5/6: The Plymouth Festival Chorus, on May 5th at 7:30am, and May 6th at 3:00pm. Both concerts will be held in the church sanctuary.

Coming Events:

May 13-Mother's Day; The Annual Meeting of The Church of the Pilgrimage will be held following morning worship.

Other Groups Meeting at Our Church

Monday: Aerobics, 9:15-10:15am, Allerton Hall; Pilgrim Festival Chorus, 7-10pm, Sanctuary; Brownie Girl Scouts, 4-5:30, Allerton Hall; Junior Girl Scouts, 6-7pm, Great Hall; Brownie Girl Scouts, 5:30-7:15, Stewart Room (every other week).

Tuesday: Brownie Girl Scouts, 3:30-5:30, Stewart Room; Aerobics, 6:30-7:30pm, Allerton Hall.

Wednesday: Aerobics, 9:15-10:15am, Allerton Hall; Cub Scouts-Boy Scouts, 6:30pm-10:00pm, Great Hall; Daisy Girl Scout Troop, 4-5:30pm, Stewart Room (every other week).

Thursday: Aerobics, 6:30-7:30pm, Allerton Hall; Brownie Girls Scouts, 5:30-6:30, Stewart Room; Women's AA, 7-8pm, Stewart Room.

Friday: Aerobics, 9:15-10:15am, Allerton Hall.

NOTICE

In accordance with the Bylaws of The Church of the Pilgrimage, the 2007 Annual Business Meeting will be held on May 13, 2007, following the Service of Worship.

The Purpose of the Meeting shall be:

1. To receive Reports of all Boards, Committees and Officers.
2. To act upon the 2007 Budget of the Church.
3. The election of Officers, Board and Committee Members.

All Church Members are urged to attend this important Meeting.

Lois E. Post



Clerk

CHURCH RECORD

Hospitalization

- William Snyder is recuperating at home following hospitalization at The New England Medical Center.

Wedding

- On April 21, 2007 Rev. Marks conducted a wedding service for Neil Matthew McClain and Kristin Snow Torrance at The White Cliffs of Plymouth.

Flowers: In loving memory of Mary & Herb Ward and Gerald & Grace Harting given by their children, Diane Ward Harting and Bill Harting.

Greeters: Marge Sears and Alice Dunham





PawSox-Saturday, June 16th is The Church of the Pilgrimage annual trip to the PawSox. We have great seats and it is a great family trip. Tickets are \$30.00 per person, which includes the bus ride and the game ticket. Please see Al or Verna Hoyt to reserve your seat at this great family event. First come, first served.

Equipping the Kitchen: The Trustees (and a few Trustee sympathizers) have acquired 300 place settings of commercial china, flatware; serving utensils, stainless work tables and storage racks. All through the generosity of Ms. Janet Sullivan and several donations. This is the start of equipping the Robinson Center kitchen. Doug Post, Al Hoyt, Ray and Barbara Quinn and Sherm Anderson have been instrumental in this effort. The next step will be to obtain and install a commercial dishwasher. Donations for the Robinson center kitchen will be gladly accepted.

Event for All Women of the Church You are invited to an intergenerational event Monday, May 7th from 6 to 7:45 in Allerton Hall. May is a month to recognize mothers, daughters and sisters of faith and the roles they serve in our church and the wider church. Dinner will be a “bring to share meal” (sometimes called pot luck). After the dinner, hosted by Women’s Fellowship, Rosalee Sinn will present a program on the impact Heifer Project makes in the lives of Women of the World and their families. Thru pictures and stories, Rosalee will take us into the homes of women in our global village. Bring a daughter, a sister, a mother. Reservations may be made after church for the next 3 Sundays or by calling the church office. At that time, please tell us if you wish to share a main dish, salad or dessert. Also, please bring a picture of a woman who has been an important influence in your life. You will have a chance to share your thoughts about this person at your table. If you are like me with only sons and a mother and sisters too far away, bring a sister of faith. May 7th is my mother’s 91st birthday so I will bring a birthday cake in her honor to share with you my church family.

Shalom, Kathy
President Women’s Fellowship

NOTES--

> Gary is compiling a list of people who have indicated an interest in church membership. If you have spoken to him or phoned the church office about membership, please remind him. When the list is complete, he’ll announce dates and times for series of membership classes.

> The Theological Study Group met on June 22nd. The next meeting will be held on May 6th from 11:30am-12:30pm in the Rev. John Robinson Center. The discussion will be based upon chapters 3 and 4 of The Phoenix Affirmations. Please read those chapters. If you haven’t attended a class, you are invited to do so. Books are available through Peter Causton.

> The Evening Prayer Services have resumed. On most Wednesdays the prayer group meets in the sanctuary from 7:00pm – 7:30pm. These meetings are times of reflection, meditation and quiet repose before God. Scripture is employed to stimulate prayer as are meditative readings. Rev. Marks leads the group and the format reflects the Celtic Christian tradition. Those who regularly attend these prayer services find them to be important components on their spiritual journey. You are welcome to join us.

> Occasionally it is good to remember and thank those who get little recognition for the quiet work they do at the church. This week we thank the Communion Committee who prepare the elements for each celebration of the Lord’s Supper. Thank You! We also thank those who provide Coffee Hours week after week. We recognize, too, this week the women who fold The Pilgrimage Herald each week. Sometimes we forget that nothing happens by itself. We thank those who quietly perform duties for the love of the church and usually are hardly recognized for all the important work they do.

Confirmands and Mentors: Our next (and last) confirmation meeting will be Sunday, May 6th from 11:45-1:15p.m. Be sure to check out the United Church of Christ’s website: www.ucc.org. Don’t forget: Confirmation Sunday is May 20th.

Junior High Fellowship News and Notes Our Junior High Fellowship for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders meets the first and third Sundays from 4-5:30p.m. Our next meeting will be Sunday, May 6th and will involve an outdoor service project, weather permitting. We hope you’ll join us, and bring a friend!

Children’s Worship Service On Sunday, May 6th we will have our regular first Sunday of the month Worship Service for Children and Youth ages 3 through 9th grade. Worship will be in the John Robinson Center and will include a Service of Communion. Parents, please bring your children to their classrooms *before* the 10a.m. service begins in the sanctuary.

2nd Grade Bibles! We’re pretty sure we have a comprehensive list of this year’s 2nd graders who will be receiving a Bible on Children’s Sunday on June 3rd. However, we want to be sure no one is left out—so parents, please call the church office (508-746-3026) with the spelling of your child’s name as you would have it appear on her or his Bible. Also, if for some reason your child already completed 2nd grade but never received a 2nd Grade Bible from our church and would like one, please let us know.

Attention Graduating Seniors and Parents: We want to honor our graduating high school seniors during worship on June 10th and we would like to publish your name and any information you have about your future plans in an upcoming issue of the Herald. Please call the church office to let us know if you will be able to be present on June 10th and to share what’s next for you.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH NEWS...



May is Heifer Month!!!

(see enclosed for more information on Heifer)

Monday Meals of Hospitality: Please call coordinator Diane Flood at 508-209-0266 if you could help with one of the Monday Meals for those in need in our community. There is one more Monday remaining. Thank You.

The Plymouth Food Warehouse: We continue to collect non-perishables each week. The supplies are very low at the warehouse. The following items are needed: canned fruit, baby food (with current dates), ketchup, relish, mustard, soups, coffee, tea, crackers, cereal, juice, peanut butter, jelly, pasta and sauce, and canned tuna and chicken and ham. Thank you for your participation.

UCC Coffee Project Sales will come to an end soon, but resume in the fall.

The United Church of Christ 50th Anniversary Celebration

On **Friday, June 22, 2007**, the **Massachusetts Conference** will hold its **Annual Meeting** just outside of Hartford, from 8:00am to 1:45 pm at the Crowne Plaza in Cromwell, CT. The Meeting is being held in Connecticut to make it easy for Annual Meeting delegates, clergy and visitors to take part in the UCC Anniversary Celebration as well. Those who plan to attend the Annual Meeting delegates, clergy and visitors to take part in the UCC Anniversary Celebration as well. Those who plan to attend the Annual Meeting are encouraged to also register for the weekend for Synod, so they can attend the Synod activities on Friday, the Synod in the City on Saturday and the Community Worship on Sunday.

Saturday, June 23, 2007 is the biggest celebration day, called **Synod in the City**.

Sunday, June 24, 2007, at 3:00 pm at the Hartford Civic Center is the **Community Worship** service held as part of the General Synod. This worship service is open to all, no registration required.

Friday, May 4, 2007 at 7:00pm

Second Church of Plymouth is pleased to present...

Elena Huegel

Global Ministries Missionary

Elena will present an interactive discussion about El Centro Shalom, a camp dedicated to the education of the global community in peace and environmental concerns.

Second Church is located at the corner of State Road (3A) and White Horse Road in the Manomet section of Plymouth. Admission is free and any donations will be given to support Elena's interfaith and environmentally based mission of peace. For directions go to: <http://www.secondchurchofplymouth.org>.